

Notice of Allowability

Application No.

10/767,365

Applicant(s)

BLAIR ET AL.

Examiner

Art Unit

James A. Reagan

3621

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to the preliminary amendment filed on 27 February 2006.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 1-23.
3. ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: _____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.

THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

4. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
5. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
- (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
- 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
- (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.
- Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).**
6. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

1. ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2. ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3. ☒ Information Disclosure Statements (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08),
Paper No./Mail Date _____
4. ☐ Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit
of Biological Material
5. ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
6. ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413),
Paper No./Mail Date _____
7. ☐ Examiner's Amendment/Comment
8. ☒ Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
9. ☐ Other _____

DETAILED ACTION

Status of Claims

1. This action is in response to the preliminary amendment filed on 27 February 2006.
2. Claims 1, 15, 18, 21, and 23 have been amended.
3. Claims 1-23 are currently pending and have been examined.

Information Disclosure Statement

4. The Information Disclosure Statements filed on 27 February 2006 and on 30 June 2004 have been considered. Initialed copies of the Form 1449 are enclosed herewith.

Terminal Disclaimer

5. The terminal disclaimer filed on 27 February 2006 disclaiming the terminal portion of any patent granted on this application, which would extend beyond the expiration date of 31 March 2021 has been reviewed and is accepted. The terminal disclaimer has been recorded.

Allowable Subject Matter

6. Claims 1-23 are allowed. See Reasons for Allowance under separate heading.

Reasons For Allowance

7. The following is an Examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:

None of the art of record, taken individually or combination, disclose at least the method step or system components of:

- *wherein the host computer system is operated by a payment service provider separate from the travel company, and wherein the host computer system includes a set of identifiers forming a database of customer travel arrangements;*
- *receiving a payment from the consumer, wherein the consumer is physically present at the payment service provider location; and*
- *electronically transmitting at least a portion of the payment to the travel company.*

More specifically, the prior art of record fails to disclose a payment office that contains a database of customer travel data, which allows a customer to make payments to an account simply by walking in and making the payment.

Independent claims 1, 15, 18, 21, and 23 are distinguished over the closest prior art of Cornwell, ("Western Union Service Growing", and "Payment Systems: Western Union Service for Overdue Accounts Resolving Delinquent Cards") which discloses a walk-up bill paying service. However, Cornwell is silent regarding the particulars of the bill payment system such as the database, which contains customer travel data. As recited in independent claims 1, 15, 18, 21, and 23, it is clear that the Applicant's invention is distinguished over the Cornwell invention in at least the method step of the host computer system is operated by a payment service provider separate from the travel company, and wherein the host computer system includes a set of identifiers forming a database of customer travel arrangements. Although Cornwell does disclose

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a walk-up bill paying service, Cornwell does not disclose the required database functionality. Dependent claims 2-14, 16, 17, 19, 20, and 22, are subsequently allowable because they are dependent upon allowed independent claims 1, 15, 18, 21, and 23.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Conclusion

8. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.
 - FEIKEN, ALBERTUS (EP 700023 A1) teaches Improved integrity of a payment system for the payment of services or goods, for example telephone facilities, making use of electronic payment cards.

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Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or concerning this communication or earlier communications from the Examiner should be directed to **James A. Reagan** whose telephone number is **571.272.6710**. The Examiner can normally be reached on 8:00a - 5:00p M-F. If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the Examiner's supervisor, **James Trammell** can be reached at **571.272.6712**.

*Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://portal.uspto.gov/external/portal/pair> . Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at **866.217.9197** (toll-free).*

Any response to this action should be mailed to:

Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks

Washington, D.C. 20231

or faxed to:

571-273-8300 [Official communications, After Final communications labeled "Box AF"]

571-273-8300 [Informal/Draft communications, labeled "PROPOSED" or "DRAFT"]

Hand delivered responses should be brought to the **United States Patent and Trademark Office Customer Service Window:**

Randolph Building

401 Dulany Street

Alexandria, VA 22314.

JAMES A. REAGAN

Primary Examiner

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10 April 2006

JAMES A. REAGAN
PRIMARY EXAMINER

